EXHIBIT 5
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STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY: WHY IS IT NEEDED?

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Montana's local public safety responders already have existing radio systems, some of which they have built and improved themselves over the years. Some local entities that have created their own systems are justifiably proud of what they have.

In addition, Montana has a well-established and well-understood system of "mutual aid" radio frequencies that allow multiple responders to communicate with each other on local incidents such as fires or law enforcement tactical situations.

Why is an additional layer of "interoperable" communications needed? How will the new statewide interoperable system improve communications beyond current capabilities? The answers vary according to the needs of each local discipline. But some situations seem to be common to many jurisdictions.

This publication describes situations (including actual cases) in which a statewide interoperable system will improve current communications capabilities and offer additional options currently unavailable.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: When situations cross borders.

THE INCIDENT: A violent crime occurs near a county line. Response time is critical. Victims need treatment. Suspects must be apprehended as soon as possible. The search likely will cover multiple jurisdictions.

How many responders need to be involved? How much time will it take to contact all of them and coordinate their responses? Does your county have the ability to be in immediate and constant communication with one or more neighboring counties? If responders have to travel to the scene, how many times must they change frequencies to allow for different repeaters along the way? Can responders talk with dispatch if they have to cross a county line?

THE INTEROPERABLE DIFFERENCE: The statewide interoperable system allows responders to pre-program their radios with "**Incident Talk Groups**" that allow them to contact all members of those talk groups instantly and maintain contact with them as long as needed.

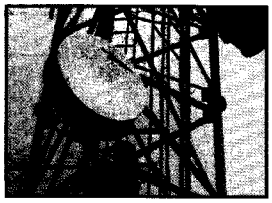
With the combination of shared radio frequencies and digital **"trunking" (switching) technology,** responders can maintain communications without ever having to change frequencies manually. They also can work an incident without disturbing public works, fire services and other radio users' activities.

A MEAGHER COUNTY EXAMPLE: In 2007, Meagher County Sheriff Rick Seidlitz called for assistance in a standoff with an armed man who had refused to obey an eviction notice. Among the tactical teams who arrived was the Lewis & Clark County SWAT unit, along with then-Undersheriff Leo Dutton.

Seidlitz noticed that the Lewis & Clark team was the only unit that could communicate across the county line back to its dispatch center. He was impressed with that capability. "If I was on the team as a cop, I'd like to be able to talk to dispatch," he says. "And it's a huge thing as a commander. It's another tool. Plus it helped us by taking some pressure off our dispatch."

For Dutton, it was just one example of how his department's ability to form "trunked talk groups" has made a difference.

"For commanders, it's great. I could talk to Helena anytime, relay information from the scene and stay in touch with operations there, without disturbing the White Sulphur Springs dispatch center" said Dutton. Since then, Dutton has used the county's interoperable system many times with success. In 2009, he used the system to coordinate the search for a young suspect in the stabbing death of another young person. Among the entities he brought in were Jefferson County, Powell County and the U.S. Forest Service.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL: Long rural ambulance runs.

THE INCIDENT: A middle-aged Carter County rancher develops severe chest pains while in the field. His ranch is out of cell phone range and has only land-line service. Local EMTs arrive on the scene and determine the rancher must be transported to a Billings hospital for cardiac care. The most direct route to Billings is west along U.S. 212 through the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian Reservations, which include large areas with no cell phone or reliable radio coverage. As a result, the ambulance crew has no contact with the hospital for long periods. This scenario has been described by sheriffs and other public safety officials in several areas of Montana, including Carter County.

THE INTEROPERABLE DIFFERENCE: The system will allow an ambulance with an interoperable radio to establish contact with a hospital from the moment of first response to delivery of the patient at the hospital door. And it can stay in contact without ever changing radio settings.

Here's what recently retired Carter County Sheriff Rusty Jardee said about this capability: "I want our county's ambulance to be able to talk to the hospital and share information during the entire run, without having to search for frequencies or worrying about dead spots. It could be the difference between life and death for one of our citizens."

FIRE SERVICES: When it's more than a local event.

THE INCIDENT: A grass fire breaks out on private land in dry prairie. High winds quickly drive it across fire district boundaries and toward land managed by the state, the BLM and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. County roads and a state highway also may be affected. Tribally-owned land also might be at risk.

Montana has six mutual aid frequencies dedicated to fire communication, including frequencies devoted to fire ground operations, command, and repeaters. But these channels are designed for local operations once responders are on site, within the limits of local radio systems.

THE INTEROPERABLE DIFFERENCE: Fire services with access to the IM system could establish simultaneous communications with nearby fire districts or departments, the county sheriff's department, federal and state management agencies, as well as county public works, the state Department of Transportation and the Montana Highway Patrol.

In 2009, the Wild Horse Fire District in northern Hill County tracked a grass fire across the landscape using the interoperable system. Also that year, fire departments in Lewis and Clark County used the system to coordinate response to the MacDonald Pass Fire west of Helena.

HAZMAT, RESCUE, ETC: From Routine to Catastrophic

INCIDENT #1: A semi-tractor with a double trailer misses a curve on Interstate 90 below Lookout Pass. The driver is injured, both eastbound lanes are blocked and potentially hazardous cargo may be close to the St. Regis River.

The crash has occurred in a long "dead spot" where neither radios nor cell phones can reach a tower. As a result, there is a delay in notifying 9-1-1, the Montana Highway Patrol. First responders also must leave the scene to make radio or phone contact.

INCIDENT #2: A large avalanche buries snowmobilers in a remote, narrow drainage where mountains block radio signals. No cell towers cover the area. Again, the principal responder must leave the scene to call for additional resources, then return to the scene to re-assess the situation.

THE INTEROPERABLE DIFFERENCE: The first priority of a statewide interoperable system is to expand radio coverage. This is accomplished by constructing towers on carefully chosen high ground locations and installing communications equipment for both the local entities and the statewide system. This equipment will allow a responder to remain on-scene and have simultaneous communication with as many entities as the situation demands.

Ultimately, the main reason for interoperable communications is so that a wide variety of public safety officials can coordinate responses in a major disaster and avoid loss of life.

The mission statement of Montana's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) says it clearly: **"No one should lose a life because public safety officials can not communicate.**